

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06125 112248Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 EB-08 AGRE-00
AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 900

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PASS USDA OGSM

PASS AID

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAD EAGR PE
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR PL 480 TITLE I RICE PURCHASE

1. THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE HAS JUST ADVISED ME BY LETTER THAT THE GOP IS REQUESTING THROUGH THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AN ADDITIONAL PL 480 TITLE I CREDIT TO PURCHASE 50,000 METRIC TONS OF RICE FOR SEPTEMBER DELIVERY. RICE IMPORTS AT THE END OF CY 1978 AND BEGINNING OF 1979 ARE ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO COVER PERU'S SEVERE 1978 PRODUCTION SHORTFALL. IT IS NOW EXPECTED THAT THE COUNTRY WILL BE FORCED TO IMPORT A MINIMUM OF 80,000 METRIC TONS PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE 1979 RICE HARVEST. (SEE AGATT REPORT PR 8010 DATED MARCH 30, 1978.) DURING PAST FIVE YEARS PERU HAS IMPORTED RICE ONLY IN CALENDAR YEARS 1975 AND 1976. DURING 1975 PURCHASES WERE: PRC, 30,000 MT; PAKISTAN 22,000 MT; AND THAILAND 26,000 MT FOR A TOTAL OF 78,000 MT. IN 1976, 71,000 MT WERE IMPORTED, ALL FROM THE PRC.

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2. PERU MUST IMPORT RICE THIS YEAR AND NEXT TO FEED ITS POPULATION. AND, THE MONEY IS SIMPLY NOT THERE TO PAY FOR THE IMPORTS. I HAVE MADE CLEAR ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS THIS PAST YEAR MY CONVICTION THAT SUBSTANTIAL FOOD AID IS NEEDED TO PROMOTE OUR INTERESTS IN THIS COUNTRY -- INTERESTS IN SOUND DEVELOPMENT AND THE ALLEVIATION OF HUNGER, AS WELL AS THOSE IN DEMOCRATIZATION AND HUMAN

RIGHTS. I AM UNINFORMED AS TO WHETHER ADDITIONAL TITLE I FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE THIS FISCAL YEAR. BUT IF THERE ARE FUNDS, I CAN THINK OF NO CASE WHERE THEY CAN BE PUT TO BETTER USE.

3. I ALSO WANT TO TAKE THIS OCCASION TO RECOMMEND AS STRONGLY AS I CAN THAT PERU BE PROVIDED AS GENEROUS AN ALLOTMENT AS POSSIBLE OF TITLE I ASSISTANCE IN FY '79. THE NEEDS HERE WILL CONTINUE TO BE CRITICAL.
SHLAUDEMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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